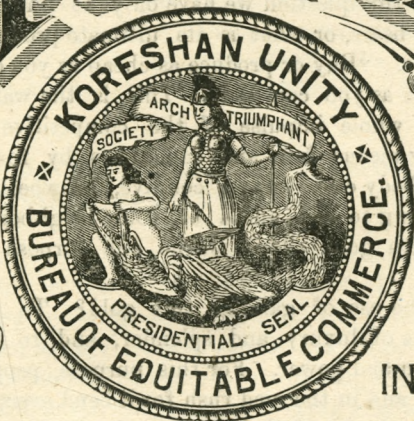
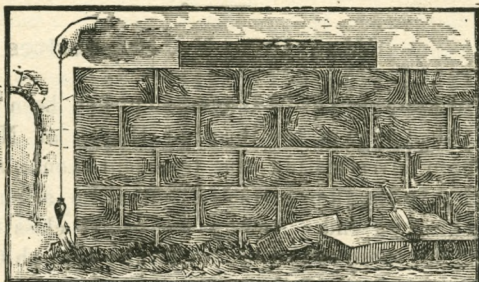


# THE PLOWSHARE AND PRUNING G Hook

INDICATOR OF COMMERCIAL EQUATION.



Vol. II. No. 26. CHICAGO, ILL., DECEMBER 29, 1894. \$1.00 per Year.

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ENTERED AT THE CHICAGO POST-OFFICE AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

KORESH, FOUNDER AND EDITOR.

"Thrice is he arm'd, that hath his quarrel just;  
And he but naked, though lock'd up in steel,  
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF VICTORIA GRATIA.

## Apply the Remedy.

Cheap articles of commerce mean cheap production, and cheap production means cheap labor. Protection, as a principle, means that either we as a nation are too small and cowardly to enter the world's arena in competition with other nations for the markets of the world, or that a few narrow-minded men who manufacture certain kinds of goods demand protection for their own personal interests.

Protection is a factional, sectional, and local issue; it tends toward the augmentation of wealth in the hands of the millionaire, and the impoverishment of the nation, because it diminishes its commercial power and standing among the nations. The United States of America—naturally the greatest nation, having incalculable resources—is struggling against its illimitable powers, that it may reduce itself to a third or fourth rate nation, to follow in the wake of the Carnegies and their ilk.

Free trade is a national question, a factor and sign of national greatness,—the surest indication of aggressive and

fearless progress,—but it inevitably determines either toward the tyranny of a plutocracy, as in England, or toward the Commonwealth, as in America.

Protection of one class of people means, inevitably, the impoverishment of another class. It is a self-evident proposition that when, in a country claiming to be a Commonwealth, the interests of one class conflict with the interests of another class, and in the clashing of these two interests open war is waged, in which all rules of decency and honor are ignored, there is something radically defective in the administration of public economy.

Where is the wrong? In its discovery we hold, in possibility, the application of the remedy. The remedy is the Commonwealth, insured through the combination of the people who own the Government and possess the "inalienable" right, through the ballot, to so regulate the law as to provide for their interests.

"But," some will say, "we have no right to interfere with the honest accumulations of the rich." It was said with equal force, "We have no right to interfere with the honest accumulations of the slave owner"; but God's justice demanded the liberty of four millions of slaves, and for the iniquity of the bondage came righteous retribution. Africo-America was partially restored, and the rich slave owner lost his property and became poor by the inevitable decree of justice.

Justice now as inevitably decrees the removal of the curse of labor; a thunderbolt from the throne of Jove has been hurled, which speeds its way to the annihilation of a fictitious wealth in the hands of the few, by which the masses are ground to poverty.

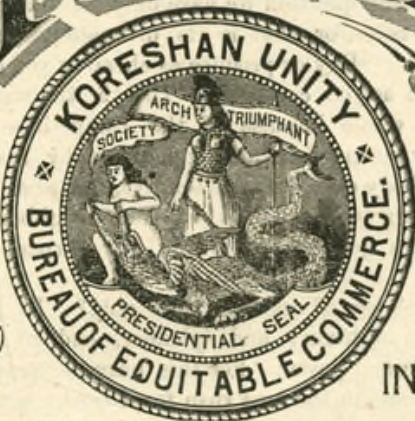
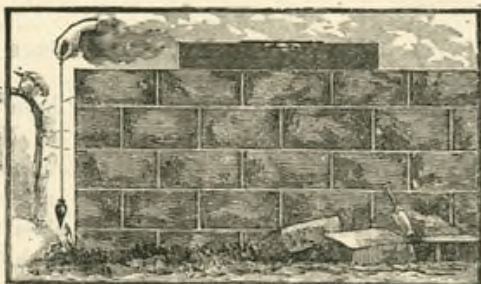
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The increase of gold, silver, or paper—as money—will not relieve the poverty of the poor, nor lessen the wealth and power of the rich in combination for the multiplication of their wealth. The competitive system will enable them to accumulate as rapidly where the circulating medium is large, as where it is small. The increase of currency will increase the power of those making combinations, and diminish the resistance of those who stand alone; nor will the intrinsic worthlessness of the money used, better the conditions of the producer of wealth so long as the medium of exchange has a fictitious valuation fixed and stamped upon it.



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The only righteous exchange is value received for value given. Any system of exchange in which much is given for little, or little for much, is robbery, and should not stand.—A.

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While the Lexow Commission has been investigating the police system, the Board of Health of New York City has been investigating the tenement house system. This latter investigation attracted but little attention until approaching its end. Among the worst class of tenements found are those owned by the Trinity Church Corporation—ramshackle buildings, hardly lighted or ventilated, where water is almost inaccessible, and where squalor reigns. And in one of Trinity's buildings was found an opium joint! It is claimed that some of these buildings are leased for a term of years, and that while the corporation might coerce the lessee into obeying the law, to do so would inflict an "unwarrantable hardship" upon the lessee. But the controller of the corporation's estate, Colonel Van Rensselaer Cruger, admitted the corporation's direct control over certain villainous tenements; and the investigation proved that the corporation had fought the Health Board's efforts to enforce the law compelling water on every floor of tenement houses. This, Colonel Cruger said, the corporation did for sanitary reasons, because if the water were inside the building the tenants would be likely to slop it on the floor and create dampness. And yet the inspectors of one of these buildings, of whose sanitary condition the Corporation is so careful as to compel the tenants to go down into the yard for water, stated that the roof and skylight leaked, and that the cellar was filthy with rags, straw, and stagnant water, this water arising from the soil. In many cases the drinking water is liable to contamination; and in certain cases the closets are said to be so offensive that fire alone can purify them.

The immense yearly revenue from these buildings is expended by Trinity in different forms of so called charitable works. Language fails before such hypocrisy. The richest church organization in America is the Trinity Corporation, and it is foremost in all conventional "charities," and is active in foreign missionary work, while it is squeezing rents for filthy lodgings out of vice and wretchedness. It is said that some of the members of the Trinity Corporation are also members of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, which society, through its efforts, brought about the police investigation. While they have been holding up their hands in horror at the evidences disclosed of corruption among the guardians of the public morals, they have been fostering a worse state of corruption among their own tenants. And while Trinity's telescopic philanthropy has been spending money to educate and Christianize (!!) the inhabitants of Borioboola-Gha, the 1,681 inhabitants of its own tenements in a so called Christian land, have not been considered worthy to have the decencies, to say nothing of the ordinary comforts, of life provided for them, by this richest of church organizations. And Trinity can endow hospitals for the poor, while the death rate of its own tenements is fourteen per cent higher than the general death rate of the city!

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Think of the professed exemplars of the doctrines of the great Communist, Jesus, the Christ, advancing the same argument in defense of their greed, as that advanced by the

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### Is Competism Right or Wrong?

To answer this question we have only to find out what sort of fruit it bears, or what is its ultimate production in the human race. "Buy or produce as cheap as you can, and sell for as much as you can get." This is the watchword, the spirit, the whole impulse of the competitive system. Strive by every means fair, and sometimes by foul, to get ahead of everybody else. Slave, connive, browbeat, underpay—do anything to get ahead of your neighbor, and fill your coffers with gold. This is the one purpose of competism.

What is the use of gaining this gold? To purchase material objects of luxury and splendor, and to purchase worldly position and power. For this purpose, people make gold their god, and in the mad rush for it bend every faculty, wreck their health, dwarf their souls, and rob themselves of the possibility of any healthy, normal happiness. For every throb of feverish delight of the few who are victors in this mad race, there are thousands of pangs of anguish and despair of those who have failed. And besides this, we have with us always the constant suffering of the laboring masses whose toil forms the basis for all competitive effort. Labor is robbed to its last mouthful, that knaves may have its wheat and corn, its coal and iron, its wool, cotton, and lumber, to play in the great game of competism. Yet competism is a great and righteous game! All the good people play it. The ministers and statesmen (?) look on and applaud, and even do not mind taking a hand themselves, now and then. If sometimes it draws on the people too hard and they rebel, why, there is the law and order committee to sit down on them! If the players make a succession of wild plays, and a panic or crisis ensues, causing general distress among the masses, they just establish a few soup houses and relief committees, and contribute a few days' pay from their employees. Whom that does not relieve, can just as well starve or freeze,—there are plenty left. If some are driven to insanity, or to commit crimes, have they not provided asylums and prisons for their benefit? What more could one ask?

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Yet, see the apparently honest, well-meaning people who defend the system of competism, and think it all right! Can they be *thinking people*, and not see the danger that even now threatens this country, through the extreme or ultimate workings of this very system? Reforms are offered, here and there, and some are even attempted, yet nothing is an adequate remedy. Nor can any measure be adequate to institute permanent peace, confidence, and justice, but the abolition of the whole accursed system.

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So hard pressed and enslaved have the masses become through the insane greed of capital, that they will not be long in adopting any reasonable method of entering upon and enjoying the rights of equitable distribution of the fruits of their toil. It is well for humanity that the hours of competition are numbered.—*Alice Fox Miller.*

### Is the Establishment of Government Pawn Shops an Evidence of Progress?

John Burns, in each of the large cities which he has visited, has, in his lecture, enumerated the particulars in which England surpasses America in the matter of municipal reform, always capping the climax thus:—"and we are about to establish Government pawn shops." This is sufficient to define the kind of reform being effected in England.

There is a pleasing little fiction in England as elsewhere that what is owned by the Government is owned by the people. Imagine the absurdity of a people opening pawn shops where they may take their tools of industry—the washerwoman's flat-iron is instanced by Mr. Burns in this connection—and pledge them, to themselves, to receive from themselves enough money to buy a meal or two! And when that money is gone, they must earn more; and to do so need their tools. Now these tools are safe in their own pawn shops—not in the pawn shops of private operators, where they are in danger of being confiscated, but in the Government pawn shops. All that the owners—of both the tools and pawn shops, remember—need do to get their tools is to return the money which they have spent for food, together with a slight per cent for usage. But how much worse off are these persons,—who have pawned their tools to themselves,—now, than they were before! They must earn, without tools, enough to eat, which before they were unable to do with tools, and also enough to get their tools back from themselves. All this is very absurd.

The truth of the matter is that government, as at present constituted in any country of the world, is not representative of the people governed, and until reconstruction begins at the foundation, we must expect to hear just such measures—contradictory in themselves—advocated by surface reformers. While Government is a usurpation, as at present, nothing is to be gained for the people by Government ownership. In the true system there will be no place for pawn shops of any kind, for there will be no possibility of workers being reduced to such expedients.—*E. M. Castle.*

### Division Is Disintegration.

At first blush, Germany's decision against American beef, because disease-infected, had the ring of true paternalism, and gave the measure a dignity which inspired respect; but ere long was revealed the attendant fact that it was act retaliatory of sugar tariff differential;—it was blow for blow governmental. It further transpires that two interests are at clash in the "*Faderland*"—the agrarian faction which precipitated the prohibition, and the business houses of Hamburg which dealt in the American export, each exerting its might in favor of its own opposing interest; in short, it does not turn upon the consideration of *poison*, but upon the consideration of *PROFIT*!

With us, a scant handful of American citizens,—still in the cause of personal *profit*—culminated the "differential,"

and hold it to its office, while the remaining armfuls—the consumers of sugars, and the would-be exporters of beef—would joyfully hail its abrogation. (O shades of majority rule!)

We read that a house divided against itself shall fall. We see divided America tottering toward the fulfilment of this prophecy; we see not alone the Germanic, but all the governments of the earth *founded upon the division of the purposes and interests of the people; nowhere, NOWHERE IS UNITY.*—*A. T. P.*

### Fallacious Currency Schemes.

#### The Issue Clearly Stated.

There are three plans of dealing with the currency question, and one of the three ought to be intelligently adopted by the country; therefore, the distinction between them should be clearly understood:—

(1) Remit the issuing of currency altogether to private enterprise, and let the Government confine itself to coining gold and silver. That was our plan up to the civil war, and it worked very badly. Bank notes were private promises to pay; their value depended wholly upon the character of the man or the corporation making them; no man could tell what the bank notes in his pockets were really worth; they were rarely far outside the state; they were often worthless, and the holder did not know it.

(2) A combination or partnership between Government and private enterprise, on such terms that private enterprise takes exclusive control of the issuing of currency, but Government guarantees its face value, securing adequate guarantee in return. That is the President's plan; and while we must leave expert bankers to determine the question whether the guarantees are adequate, and the proportion of circulation to capital, etc., safe, the method seems to us on the whole good, provided the principle is sound. But we do not believe that the principle is sound. We do not believe in partnerships between the Government and private enterprise, whether for educational, financial, commercial, or industrial purposes.

(3) This leaves for adoption the third plan, which gives to Government the exclusive right to issue paper currency, as it already has the exclusive right to issue coin, and confines banks and bankers to the function of loaning money—whether paper or coin—which the Government provides. According to this plan, the Government would issue all paper currency; would pay it out in exchange for gold or silver, and in salaries, wages, and necessary purchases; and would loan it either to banks or individuals, the best contrivance for such loan yet suggested being Secretary Windom's interconvertible bond plan.

The President justly calls for "the absolute divorcement of Government from the business of banking." This would be accomplished by giving the Government the exclusive right to issue all money, whether coin or paper; it is not accomplished by making the Government a practical indorser of all the paper money issued by all the banking institutions in the country. We believe that in this matter experience teaches the same lesson as political philosophy, but evidence of that must be reserved for the future.—*Chicago Times.*

The banker class, through a subsidized press, in the interest of spoliation of the people for their own benefit, have put out the eyes of men so that they can see nothing true and right on the question of money. The practice which now openly prevails, of the Government, chosen by the people, consulting Wall Street and Lombard Street gamblers and speculators as to how to manage the most material part of governmental affairs, the part that regulates and controls all other parts, *i. e.*, the financial part, reminds one of the wisdom of the sheep that should advise with the wolves about a choice of pastures, or of honest toilers who should make known pirates the guardians of their own hard earned treasures. This suicidal policy of making interested bankers the real government of the country, differs, *toto coelo*, from the wisdom of our Fathers who founded our Government in the beginning. What has now come to be that nest of boodlers and millionaire robbers, the United States Senate, passed, in its early history, a vote that no man having any interest in a bank should be allowed membership in it; and when John Quincy Adams became a member, he parted with some shares of bank



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The truth of the matter is that government, as at present constituted in any country of the world, is not representative of the people governed, and until reconstruction begins at the foundation, we must expect to hear just such measures—contradictory in themselves—advocated by surface reformers. While Government is a usurpation, as at present, nothing is to be gained for the people by Government ownership. In the true system there will be no place for pawn shops of any kind, for there will be no possibility of workers being reduced to such expedients.—*E. M. Castle.*

### Division Is Disintegration.

At first blush, Germany's decision against American beef, because disease-infected, had the ring of true paternalism, and gave the measure a dignity which inspired respect; but ere long was revealed the attendant fact that it was act retaliatory of sugar tariff differential;—it was blow for blow governmental. It further transpires that two interests are at clash in the "*Faderland*"—the agrarian faction which precipitated the prohibition, and the business houses of Hamburg which dealt in the American export, each exerting its might in favor of its own opposing interest; in short, it does not turn upon the consideration of *poison*, but upon the consideration of *PROFIT*!

With us, a scant handful of American citizens,—still in the cause of personal *profit*—culminated the "differential,"

and hold it to its office, while the remaining armfuls—the consumers of sugars, and the would-be exporters of beef—would joyfully hail its abrogation. (O shades of majority rule!)

We read that a house divided against itself shall fall. We see divided America tottering toward the fulfilment of this prophecy; we see not alone the Germanic, but all the governments of the earth *founded upon the division of the purposes and interests of the people; nowhere, NOWHERE IS UNITY.*

—*A. T. P.*

### Fallacious Currency Schemes.

#### The Issue Clearly Stated.

There are three plans of dealing with the currency question, and one of the three ought to be intelligently adopted by the country; therefore, the distinction between them should be clearly understood:—

(1) Remit the issuing of currency altogether to private enterprise, and let the Government confine itself to coining gold and silver. That was our plan up to the civil war, and it worked very badly. Bank notes were private promises to pay; their value depended wholly upon the character of the man or the corporation making them; no man could tell what the bank notes in his pockets were really worth; they were rarely far outside the state; they were often worthless, and the holder did not know it.

(2) A combination or partnership between Government and private enterprise, on such terms that private enterprise takes exclusive control of the issuing of currency, but Government guarantees its face value, securing adequate guarantee in return. That is the President's plan; and while we must leave expert bankers to determine the question whether the guarantees are adequate, and the proportion of circulation to capital, etc., safe, the method seems to us on the whole good, provided the principle is sound. But we do not believe that the principle is sound. We do not believe in partnerships between the Government and private enterprise, whether for educational, financial, commercial, or industrial purposes.

(3) This leaves for adoption the third plan, which gives to Government the exclusive right to issue paper currency, as it already has the exclusive right to issue coin, and confines banks and bankers to the function of loaning money—whether paper or coin—which the Government provides. According to this plan, the Government would issue all paper currency; would pay it out in exchange for gold or silver, and in salaries, wages, and necessary purchases; and would loan it either to banks or individuals, the best contrivance for such loan yet suggested being Secretary Windom's interconvertible bond plan.

The President justly calls for "the absolute divorcement of Government from the business of banking." This would be accomplished by giving the Government the exclusive right to issue all money, whether coin or paper; it is not accomplished by making the Government a practical indorser of all the paper money issued by all the banking institutions in the country. We believe that in this matter experience teaches the same lesson as political philosophy, but evidence of that must be reserved for the future.—*Chicago Times.*

The banker class, through a subsidized press, in the interest of spoliation of the people for their own benefit, have put out the eyes of men so that they can see nothing true and right on the question of money. The practice which now openly prevails, of the Government, chosen by the people, consulting Wall Street and Lombard Street gamblers and speculators as to how to manage the most material part of governmental affairs, the part that regulates and controls all other parts, *i. e.*, the financial part, reminds one of the wisdom of the sheep that should advise with the wolves about a choice of pastures, or of honest toilers who should make known pirates the guardians of their own hard earned treasures. This suicidal policy of making interested bankers the real government of the country, differs, *tofo coelo*, from the wisdom of our Fathers who founded our Government in the beginning. What has now come to be that nest of boodlers and millionaire robbers, the United States Senate, passed, in its early history, a vote that no man having any interest in a bank should be allowed membership in it; and when John Quincy Adams became a member, he parted with some shares of bank



stock, of which he had become the possessor, on the ground that it was not right for him to sit in an assembly of the people's representatives and vote money into his own private pocket. In these degenerate times, men in Congress, boldly and unrebukedly, have justified themselves in having sought office, ostensibly and professedly to represent the people and their interests, but really to promote the selfish interests of the monopoly with which their own interests were identified, and in that body have proclaimed, in advance, that when called upon to vote on questions which concerned the people's interests, as opposed to these monopolies, they should advise with the monopolies, not with the people.

There is such a thing as a science of money, but it would be nothing short of a miracle for a money system thus originated and perpetuated, to be founded upon it. Under the competitive system, money is simply and solely the medium by which exchanges are effected, where they are not effected by direct exchange of commodities. Whatever bears the governmental power to effect exchanges, including the authoritative power to settle balances and pay debts, is money, entirely irrespective of the material of which it is made. This is not only the dictum of science, but the decision of the highest judicial tribunal in the land; yet the whole banker class who want to draw destructive usury, not on what they own, merely, but on what they owe, continually cry out against it, and seek to destroy any form of money, except the one which for their own private advantage they favor, that is, gold and issues of paper, not legal money, professedly founded upon it.

The whole intent of every scheme these traitors to the people's interests propose, is to destroy the remnant of the people's paper money which yet possesses the power to settle balances and pay the people's debts, and substitute in its place their own indebtedness on which they may draw usury. Through their subsidized organs, the newspapers, they seek, in the very face of history, in season and out, to impress upon the people the awful peril of trusting to the safety of their own issue of a medium of exchange, but the entire safety of a bankers' issue of the same, which lacks every element of legal money—the power to pay debts and force exchanges—and yet which they wish to substitute for money. To lessen the amount of what they call real money, and so give them greater facility in controlling and cornering the whole amount in circulation, they stealthily secured the demonetization of silver—one of the two principal money metals—by leaving it out of the coinage at a time when it was worth three per cent more than gold. Having thus lessened the base, as they count it, of the paper money circulation, nearly one half which base is, as they teach, the only real money, their great effort now is, as it has been from the first, to destroy the treasury note, the only paper money which has the power to pay debts, and hence is, in practical effect, money at all, thus leaving the country's medium for effecting exchanges almost entirely a banker's promise to pay money, in theory, based upon that most shifting of all sands, sands of gold, for which there is the keenest and most desperate competition of the nations, there being not enough of it in the world to furnish a currency for one of its principal countries.

Some of these iniquitous schemes to enrich bankers at the people's expense propose—while allowing bankers to reap all the direct benefits of that highest act of sovereignty, the issue, coinage of money—that the people shall give stability to the scheme by magnanimously endorsing and engaging to pay the bankers' promises to pay money, when they have no money to pay, as it is a well-known fact, and one admitted by the Secretary of the Treasury, that if called upon, as they may be, at any time, banks can never pay more than twenty per cent of their liabilities. Still other schemes propose that, on condition that banks keep thirty per cent of their issues in their vaults, (the ratio under

the old fraudulent system of wild cat state banking, before the war, the outcome of which was utter ruin to the people, thirty-three and one third per cent, was considered the sum needful for safety) they be allowed to issue their promises to pay—their debt—as a medium of exchanges for the people. Still other schemes propose to turn the whole business of issuing paper money over to the banks, trusting their wisdom and disinterested benevolence to furnish a safe medium of exchanges for the people.

If it be true that whatever—outside of, and beyond, a simple exchange of commodities—effects exchange is money; then whatever performs the functions of money is money; and any effort to build up a money system having a base which, under the present system is, in effect, the only real money, that has but a fraction of the proportions of the structure which is supposed to rest upon it, and which, while not money, performs the functions of money, is an attempt to deceive the people in the interests of bankers, and, in the outcome, rob them of their hard earned possessions.

If we admit that money is at all a just and proper institution, which as Koreshans we do not, we must contend that everything, of whatever material made, which is put in the place of money, to perform its functions, must be money, having all its legal powers. The present national bank system, with every one of the schemes to patch it up and perpetuate it, or substitute another for it, is a very great abuse and oppression which ought speedily to be removed. That the people should have so soon and so perfectly forgotten the miseries of the era of "stump-tail" currency (in which a man with his pockets full of what he had taken as money, had to carry a *Bank Note Reporter* to determine whether he had enough of actual value to pay for his breakfast) as to listen patiently to a proposition to restore it, is one of the surprises of history. Our Constitution grants to Congress, not to any private concern, the right to coin money and regulate the value of same. It has no right to use that function for the benefit of any private concern, much less to turn over the use of it to that concern. The stamping and issuing paper to perform the functions of money is just as much coining money as the stamping and issuing gold is, and especially is this true since the regulation of the value of money consists entirely in regulating the quantity of the same in proportion to its uses.

A currency—the sole intent of which is to effect exchanges—which is made up in part of gold, the only real legal money, and paper which is not money at all, is a house divided against itself, which always has periodically fallen, and always will so fall, dragging down and destroying the fortunes of the people who tolerate it. It not only destroys present accumulations, but, for the time being, and until another currency can be established, it destroys all power to accumulate, or even to live—is a murderous crime of the deepest dye against humanity.

As Koreshans, we do not say, "monetize paper," although that, if the competitive system is to continue, would be the highest wisdom, since it would, if not afford entire exemption from periodical money panics, greatly lessen their destructive power; but we do say, "demonetize gold and everything else which now possesses the power of money." Only thus can the love of money, "the root of all evil," be destroyed, and the love of the neighbor, which it has destroyed, be restored.—O. F. L.

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We have seen what the old, wicked, and treacherous Republican party has done. (Now don't get mad.) It laid its snares under the guiding hand of England, for the destruction of American freedom. Just study on that for a minute. The people have not seen these snares, but they have been so entangled in them that they have felt them; feeling them, and having an idea it was owing to the mistakes of the Republican party, they combined their votes to place the Democratic party in power. It took a great many years to force the people to this decision, but they did it at last. Once in power, that treacherous party set aside all its promises and fastened the Republican wrongs still more securely. Nor was this all; they added, yes, the very party that had been honored with power that it might mitigate the wrongs perpetrated by the Republican party, added still more. What did the people do? Did they cast off both these treacherous parties? No! but, instead, swung back into the party that first of all set on foot the plans for enslaving the people. What then? Did they, after this experience, resolve on a national funeral of both these false parties? Not at all! but again swung back into the jaws of the old and false Democratic party.

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We celebrate the birth of Jesus, who was heralded by the acclaim, "Peace on earth, good will to men," as though we were a Christian nation and believed and practiced what he preached. The fact is, we are in a deeper and darker paganism than that which He found on earth nearly nineteen hundred years ago. Even as we now write, men are erecting in the courthouse yard in this city a scaffold where, on the second day after Christmas, a poor, ignorant wretch, one of the many victims of our worse than pagan civilization, will be put to death. What a commentary

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## A Widespread Disease.

For months, some of the good citizens of New York have been fairly boiling over with indignation by reason of the disclosures effected by the Lexow Committee. It has long been well known that corruption was rife in all departments of the city government, but that such a stupendous system of bribery and blackmail as has been unearthed in the Police Department was actually in operation seemed inconceivable.

Now, with full appreciation of the horribleness of the state of things which these disclosures have brought to light, we protest that much of the indignation expressed hits wide of the mark. This is especially the case in so far as it is aimed against the individual perpetrators of the specific acts made public. Taking everything into account—their education, or rather their lack of it, their environment, and their opportunities and consequent temptations—these men are not so very different after all from many of their accusers. The crimes of which these men stand convicted before men are only some of the symptoms of a disease from which the whole nation is suffering, and a disease which threatens its moral integrity.

Bribery and blackmail are running riot everywhere. From the apparently innocent tipping of the waiter at a restaurant, in order to obtain special favors from him, to the setting apart of thousands of dollars by a business house for the purpose of "influencing" the "buyers" of other houses, their customers; from the open palm of the custom-house official to the undisguisable attitude of the members of a legislature; from the lowest, through every grade, to the highest, this disease is running its course.

The virus of this disease is the desire of possessing that which we do not earn. This virus attacks us all, and in most of us can only be kept at bay by the stimulus which the opportunities for an orderly, healthful life offer. These opportunities are denied to most men in the world, today. Not only is this the case, but even worse, for the very foundation of modern society is nothing but a breeding place for the microbes of bribery and blackmail. In the thought that by owning the earth, men and their descendants for countless generations after them can live without labor; can live at the expense of others; can live on what is in truth but a robber's ransom, we have the germ of the disease which is eating up the truly vital organs of society, and of which the miserable revelations of a Lexow Committee are but some of the skin symptoms.—*New Earth*.

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